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Date: June 11, 2003 User: 6726 Client Matter #: 3993968-126973

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Nils O. Olsson et al.
Serial No.: 09/993,362
Filing Date: November 16, 2001
Title: "ZERO LOOSENESS FASTENER FOR LINKAGE ASSEMBLY"
Examiner: Amy Jo Sterling
Art Unit: 3677

RESPONSE "B"

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Response "B" is filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.116 in response to the Office Action dated March 7, 2003. Applicant requests entry of this Response and reconsideration of the final rejection. The three month date for response expired on June 7, 2003. Accordingly, applicant respectfully petitions and requests a one-month extension of time until July, 7, 2003.

The walls are not deformed within both the apertures to engage both of the apertures of the two members as claimed". Therefore, even assuming that Harney and Mitas et al are permissibly combinable, the combination still does not disclose or reasonably suggest the present invention as defined by claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

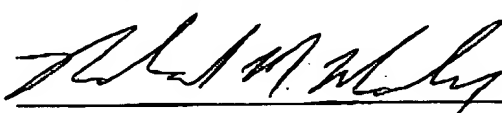
Claim 13 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable because they each include the limitations that "said body portion extends through said first and second apertures and is plastically deformed so that the body portion is expanded outwardly within the first and second apertures to engage the first and second links within the first and second apertures whereby the fastener secures the first and second links to allow relative rotational movement between the first and second links while preventing relative linear motion therebetween". No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by claim 13. See arguments made in detail above with regard to claim 1 and which also apply to claim 13.. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-2326.

Respectfully submitted,

PORTER, WRIGHT, MORRIS & ARTHUR LLP



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June 11, 2003